

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03608 030407Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 IO-13
/062 W
-----030411Z 103446 /13

O 030334Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3618
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR KS JA
SUBJ: ROK/JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT

1. ROK/JAPAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT RATIFICATION
CONTINUED TO DOMINATE NEWS OVER WEEK-END. WE DETECT,
HOWEVER, SOME SOFTENING IN ROKG ATTITUDE, ALTOUGH PRESS REMAINS
AGITATED. PRESS REPORTS OF APRIL 30 CABINET MEETING IN OFFICIAL
KOREA HERALD QUOTES PRESIDENT PARK AS HAVING INSTRUCTED CABINET
TO URGE THAT JAPAN EXPEDITE RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT. REPORTS
ALSO NOTE PRESIDENT DIRECTED CABINET TO PREPARE CONTINGENCY
PLANS FOR EVENTUALITY THAT AGREEMENT MAY NOT BE RATIFIED.
PRESIDENT IS ADDITIONALLY REPORTED TO HAVE RECALLED THAT
GOJ HAS ASSURED ROKG ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT AGREEMENT
WILL BE RATIFIED DURING PRESENT DIET SESSION AND THAT IF
GOJ EXERTS EFFORTS WITH SINCERITY TO THAT END, PROBLEM
CAN BE SOLVED.

2. JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE, WHILE EXPRESSING REGRET AT LOWER
HOUSE FAILURE TO RATIFY AGREEMENT THUS FAR, STRESSED THAT
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03608 030407Z

RATIFICATION SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE FAILED, YET.
JAPANESE AMBASSADOR NISHIYAMA FLEW TO TOKYO APRIL 30 FOR
CONSULTATIONS WITH PRIMIN FUKUDA AND FONMIN HATOYAMA
AFTER MEETING WITH ROK FONMIN PAK TONG-JUN EARLIER IN DAY.

3. MOFA ASIAN BUREAU CHEIF KONG NO-MYONG CONFIRMED TO
EMBOFF MAY 1 THAT GOVERNMENT POSITION AS STATED IN

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE APRIL 28-29, WAS THAT IT PREMATURE TO DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CONTINENTAL SHELF RATIFICATION SINCE DIET STILL SITTING. ACCORDING TO KONG, PRIMIN AND FONMIN STRESSED THAT COUNTER ACTION WILL ONLY BE NECESSARY IF DIET DOES NOT ACT AND THAT GOVERNMENT ONLY TAKING THOSE MEASURES NECESSARY TO PREPARE FOR THE CONTINGENCY.

4. KONG ALSO SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT PRESS REPORT TO EFFECT THAT JAPANESE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING GIVING APPROVAL FOR VISIT BY NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION CONSISTING OF NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS AND HEADED BY FORMER NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO PEKING YON CHON-HUK. KONG PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT TIMING OF THIS REPORTED APPROVAL AND SAID ROKG WAS CONSIDERING ASKING USG TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY TO PERSUADE JAPANESE NOT TO TAKE THIS STEP. PRESS MAY 3 HEADLINES ROK PROTEST IN TOKYO REGARDING DECISION TO ADMIT NORTH KOREAN GROUP, BUT NOTES FUKUDA REPORTEDLY PRESSING FOR AGREEMENT RATIFICATION.

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Message Attributes

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